

lecm
Oou

Accompanying Circular.
Downing Street.
3rd April, 1850.

From G-136.

EXHIBITION -
OF
INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS,
TO BE HELD IN
LONDON
1851.

EXHIBITION OF INDUSTRY OF ALL NATIONS, TO BE HOLDEN IN LONDON IN 1851.

PALACE OF WESTMINSTER, 14th March, 1850.

Her Majesty's Commissioners for the promotion of the Exhibition of the Works of Industry of all Nations to be holden in London in the year 1851, after careful consideration of the arrangements to be made for the admission of the productions of foreign countries to the Exhibition, have directed the publication of the following statement for the information and guidance of Foreign Exhibitors.

The Commissioners have already given notice that, however large may be the building that is to be erected, it is necessary that they should reserve to themselves ample powers of selection and rejection in respect of the articles which may be forwarded for exhibition. The necessity for making some provision for limiting the extent, and defining the character, of the Exhibition, is too obvious to need any comment; but the mode in which the powers thus reserved should be exercised, particularly with reference to the productions of foreign countries, is a matter requiring very serious deliberation.

The Commissioners have felt that it would be desirable, as far as possible, to prevent any persons from sending hither articles which cannot be admitted, rather than to reject the articles after their arrival in London. They feel also that the delicate and responsible task of deciding on the admission or rejection of articles destined for exhibition by foreign contributors ought not to be imposed upon any English tribunal, but should be referred to one having the confidence of the Exhibitors themselves, and standing entirely free from possible imputations of national partiality. They accordingly propose to admit to exhibition such foreign articles only as may be forwarded to them by the Central Authority (whatever may be its nature) in each country. They will communicate to such Central Authority the amount of space which can be allowed to the productions of the country for which it acts, and will also state the conditions and limitations which may from time to time be decided on with respect to the admission of articles. All articles forwarded by such Central Authority will then be admitted, provided they do not require a greater aggregate amount of space than that assigned to the productions of the country from which they come; and, provided also, that they do not violate the conditions and limitations of which due notice shall have been given. It will rest with the Central Authority in each country to decide upon the merits of the several articles presented for exhibition, and to take care that those which are sent are such as fairly represent the industry of their fellow countrymen.

Her Majesty's Commissioners will consider that to be the Central Authority in each case, which is stated to be so by the Government of its country. Having once been put in communication with a Central Authority in any country they must decline, absolutely and entirely, any communication with private and unauthorized individuals; and should any such be addressed to them, they can only refer it to the central body. This decision is essentially necessary, in order to prevent confusion.

No articles of foreign manufacture, to whomsoever they may belong, or wheresoever they may be, can be admitted for exhibition, unless they come with the sanction of the Central Authority of the country of which they are the produce. The Commissioners do not insist upon such articles being in all cases actually forwarded by the Central Authority, though they consider that this would generally be the most satisfactory arrangement; but it is indispensable that the sanction of such Authority should in all cases be expressly given, and that it be held responsible for the fitness of such articles for exhibition, and for not authorizing the exhibition of a greater quantity than can be accommodated in the space assigned to the productions of the country in question.

With regard to the amount of space that can be given, the Commissioners propose at once to communicate with each foreign country. It must be obvious that the difficulty of fixing the amount in each case is extreme, as the Commissioners have to consider, not only the extent and population of each country, but the nature of the articles it produces, the quantities it is likely to send; which of course involves, among other considerations, the question of proximity and of the facilities for transmission to England. The productions sent will in some cases be bulky, and will require a larger amount of space than the produce likely to come from other countries, though the latter may be much the more valuable. It thus becomes impossible, in the absence of information from each country, to lay down rules which shall not be open to objection. At the same time, the Commissioners feel that it is better at once to give a definite and tangible shape to their proceedings by laying down something in the nature of a rule, however arbitrary, than to postpone the attempt till they are in possession of information which cannot be collected for a very long time. They have therefore resolved that they will allot one-half of the total amount of space at their command to the productions of Great Britain and her colonies, and will divide the remaining half among the other nations of the world; communicating to each country the space they propose to set aside for its productions, and requesting information as to the mode in which it is proposed that such space should be filled. In case the Central Authority in any country should be of opinion that the space allotted to the productions of that country is greater than it will require, the Commissioners have to request that this opinion may be communicated to them, as it is obvious that it

would not appear well if a large vacant space should be left in the department assigned to any country. If, on the other hand, any country require more than the space proposed, this also should be stated, as it may be in the power of the Commissioners to give additional room, in the event of having received notifications from other countries that a portion of the space assigned to them will not be occupied.

The Commissioners have had under their serious consideration the question whether it would be desirable to mark off particular spaces, and assign them to particular countries, allowing each to arrange the whole of its productions within those limits; but they adhere to the conclusion which they have already announced, that this course will not be desirable, and that it will be necessary that the productions of all nations should be exhibited together, according to the classification of objects which the Commissioners have made, with a subordinate classification as to nations in each section. They consider that the effect which the Exhibition is intended to produce—of showing, at one view, the points which human industry and ingenuity have reached in the arts of civilized life—would be materially diminished if the results of the industry of different nations in each department were scattered over a large space instead of being conveniently brought together. The Visitor would receive a very inadequate notion of the perfection to which particular manufactures can be carried from an inspection of those of one nation only; and in a building of such extent it would be out of his power to go from a particular section in one Exhibition to the corresponding sections in all the other national Exhibitions, and to compare them all. Again, unless the productions of all nations are exhibited together, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to award the palm of superiority. Different parts of the Exhibition will be visited on different days, and the impressions made on one day by the manufactures of one country, will be effaced the next day by the corresponding manufactures of another. In the adjudication of Prizes also such arrangements would cause much difficulty. Another objection may also be mentioned, namely the danger there would be of imputed unfairness and favouritism in the places assigned to different nations. The several articles which will be exhibited will require great diversity of accommodation, as respects space, light, and other particulars; and were the space set apart for one nation inferior in any of these respects to the space set apart for another nation, there would be ground for complaint; whereas if all articles of the same nature are exhibited together, all will share these advantages alike, and each article will be placed in that part of the building which is best adapted for the reception of goods of that description. The Commissioners must therefore reserve to themselves the unfettered right of arranging all goods that may be sent in such manner as they may think proper. They will endeavour, in the case of articles the nature of which admits of their so doing, to arrange each section with some reference to the nationality of the productions exhibited in it, and will not intermix the productions of one country with those of another, in cases where the objects of the Exhibition can be attained without their doing so. Whatever may be their arrangements, however, they undertake to find places for all articles sent by each country which could, if placed together, be exhibited in the aggregate space allotted to that country, provided only that they be informed in sufficient time what proportion of that space will be required for Raw Materials, what proportion for Machinery, what proportion for Manufactured Articles, and what proportion for objects of Fine Art. This information should be sent on or before the days which will be communicated to each country.

The Commissioners annex a Memorandum by the Commissioners of Customs, on the subject of Custom House arrangements.

A Statement will shortly be published on the subject of the Adjudication and Distribution of Prizes. It may, however, be desirable at once to state that, in all cases in which the competition is between Exhibitors of different nations, the Prizes will be adjudged by mixed Juries of English and Foreigners.

And a statement will also be published of the arrangements to be made for the protection of articles which may be exhibited, from piracy.

J. SCOTT RUSSELL,
STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE, } *Secretaries.*

ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY THE BOARD OF CUSTOMS FOR THE ADMISSION OF FOREIGN
AND COLONIAL PRODUCTIONS, FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE EXHIBITION OF 1851,
WITHOUT DUTY.

It is proposed that all works from Foreign Countries intended for exhibition, shall be imported into some one or other of the following Ports:—

LONDON,
LIVERPOOL,
BRISTOL,
HULL,
NEWCASTLE,
DOVER,
FOLKESTONE,
SOUTHAMPTON.

That the packages, when unaccompanied by the Proprietors, shall be addressed to Agents, who will be appointed at each Port by the Royal Commissioners to receive and take charge of all such packages, and whose names will be communicated to the Central Authorities in each country, and from among whom the several parties intending to send over articles for exhibition, may select the Agent he proposes to employ.

The Agents will take all the needful steps for forwarding, under the directions of the Commissioners of the Customs, the packages unopened to London (where they are not imported direct into the Port of London), and for their delivery unopened at the building in which they are to be exhibited.

In the case of packages imported into the Port of London, the Agent to whom they will be addressed will take charge of them on their arrival, and forward them unopened to the building for exhibition.

To secure the arrival of all the packages unopened and unexamined at the place of exhibition, they will be sealed at the Port of landing, with the official seal of the Board of Customs, which will afford a guarantee at the same time to the party and to the Revenue.

The whole of the goods will be admitted, in the first instance, without payment of any duty; and if they are not disposed of in England they will be delivered up for re-exportation, free of all charge for duty. If, however, they shall be disposed of in England, the duty chargeable thereon must in that case be paid before they are removed from the place of Exhibition, but they cannot be removed until the Exhibition is finally closed.

When the packages have been duly deposited in the building in which they are to be exhibited, they will be opened and examined in the presence of the Proprietor, or of the Agent in his behalf, and will then be in custody of the Commission, without whose authority they cannot be removed from the Exhibition.

All goods which are forwarded to England will remain deposited in charge of the Customs, until claimed by an agent of the party sending them, who will have to establish his right to remove them to the building, by producing the bill of lading, and the certificate given to the Exhibitor by the Central Authorities in each country, that such goods are intended for exposition.

FOREIGN
OF 1861,

ported into

who will be
and whose
ral parties

ners of the
(n), and for

ressed will

ey will be
ntee at the

if they are
, however,
e removed

ey will be
custody of

laimed by
producing
that such